

Good morning – I am writing in support of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers in Connecticut, specifically the OIC of New London County, Inc. We have already been the recipient of significant cuts and funding reductions and our clients should not have to be the ones who bear the brunt of balancing the state budget. We have been here in New London for 40 years, serving thousands of people in their quests to improve their lives, gain employment, and give back to the community. We are sending back out into the community responsible and confident adults, trained in a specific profession and becoming a necessary part of the working community. We need people who are able to work – we need to train people to fulfill job requirements and gain employment so that this region – state – country can get back onto its feet and keep on being the productive society that we have always been. We should not be leaving people behind and without funding for the OICs that is what will happen.

As a vital and active job training organization, last fiscal year alone we:

- trained 44 adults in our CNA program
- trained 27 adults in our Culinary Arts program
- trained 61 adults in our Office/Computer program
- served 488 ex-offenders in Project Employment
- served 277 adults in our Stopping Domestic Violence Program
- provided training and support to 178 individuals in our Financial Literacy Program
- over 100 deserving families took advantage of our food pantry
- nearly 200 families received energy assistance.

Opportunities Industrialization Centers are vital and necessary – they are keeping our citizens motivated and able to work. Please, please do not cut this funding.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Drudi
OIC of New London County, Inc.